

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity this week to do something about the safety of our children's schools. Every day children go to school in fear, not because they have a math test, but because the child next to them may harm them.

Tomorrow, I will offer an amendment to H.R. 3, the Juvenile Crime Control Act of 1997, to make our schools safer.

My amendment would take Megan's Law one step further. It would require States to submit a plan to the Attorney General, describing a process by which parents would be notified of a juvenile sex offender's enrollment in the elementary school or secondary school their child attends. This amendment strengthens Megan's Law by forewarning parents about juvenile sex offenders who may have fallen through the cracks even with community notification.

For example, some children attend schools outside their communities. Parents in this situation may be unaware that their son or daughter is attending school with a juvenile sex offender. My amendment would forewarn these parents as well as those whose children attend schools within their communities.

We cannot let what happened to Megan Kanka happen again. Not in any community, especially not on a playground during recess.

TODAY IS NATIONAL TOURIST APPRECIATION DAY

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, as all those in the gallery may not recognize, but today is National Tourist Appreciation Day, and this week is National Tourism Week. It is time to reflect that travel and tourism in America is our largest service export industry, the second largest employer in the United States and the third largest in retail sales. In 1996, tourism in the United States generated an estimated \$467 billion in total expenditures. It directly employs 6.6 million Americans and indirectly employs 8.9 million.

In 1995, 236,000 new jobs were created as a direct result of domestic and international tourism in the United States. American travelers spent alone \$685,000 per minute on travel and tourism, and international travelers spent \$151,000 per minute in the United States.

In my district, travel and tourism brings in \$1.5 billion a year and more than 20,000 jobs. This week more than 3,000 communities across the United States will participate in recognizing the importance of travel and tourism. I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

BALANCING THE BUDGET, CUTTING TAXES

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, what if Americans were to ask this question: "What are the politicians in Washington up to these days?" If you were to say, "Oh, they are doing exactly what we told them to do, balancing the budget, cutting our taxes, putting our fiscal house in order," if you were to say that, who would believe you?

It is time to believe. After 28 years of budget deficits, this Congress has an agreement with the President to balance the budget by 2002, if not later. Four years after the largest tax increase in our history, this Congress has an agreement with the President to change direction and cut taxes.

A lot of folks on the other side cried hysterically that we could not balance the budget and cut taxes at the same time. But this agreement does just that. This agreement is the first step in a new direction, government living within its means and tax relief for working families.

Let us take this first step and pass this historic balanced budget agreement. Let us do it for our kids.

FUNDING FOR WIC PROGRAM

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, as we begin to work out the details of last week's balanced budget agreement, we need to remember that the choices that we make in this body reflect the values of our Nation. Next week this Congress will have an opportunity to cast an important vote about our budget priorities when we vote on funding for the Women, Infants and Children program.

Will this Congress vote to take milk, cereal, and formula off the breakfast tables of needy families, or will we vote to give this program the additional \$38 million in funding that it needs to prevent 180,000 women and children from being removed from the WIC Program?

As we watch this budget agreement take shape, we need to vote to uphold the values of this Nation. We can start by fully funding the WIC Program, because it is a program that works. For every dollar spent, we save \$3.50. It is a program that provides assistance to some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Democrats are united in our opposition to WIC reductions, and I urge my Republican colleagues to join us in voting to restore the full amount of the President's request for WIC.

HIGHWAY FUNDING

(Mr. HUTCHINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the fairness in the way that we distribute our highway trust funds in America. The State of

Arkansas is geographically centered in the heart of America. As this country expands its trade with our neighbors to the north and to the south, we will need to have adequate highways in order to accommodate this trade and to build vital arteries to connect us with the rest of the Nation.

More important than building a network for commerce, it is important that we have safe highways upon which Arkansas families can drive. There is a 43-mile strip of mountainous highway in my district that has in itself accounted for more than 1,500 automobile accidents in the last 9 years. It has been called one of the most dangerous roads in the Nation.

Clearly it is time that Arkansas taxpayers receive their fair share of highway funding. We are part of that group called "donor States," meaning that we pay more in highway taxes than we receive back. Arkansas is 16th in the Nation for the number of interstate highway miles. It places 41st in the amount of highway funding it receives.

I understand that we need a national highway network, but the step 21 proposal that I support provides a more equitable and fair distribution in the way we distribute our highway funds. For that reason, I am the 100th Member to support it and I ask for everyone to join with me in that.

ISTEA FUNDING EQUITY

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the time is right for funding equity. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support funding equity when the House considers the ISTEA reauthorization bill. According to a GAO report, the current funding formula used to distribute billions of transportation funds is flawed.

My State of Florida is a perfect example of what is wrong with the formula. Florida is the fourth most populated State, third in the number of automobiles on the road, third in the number of automobiles miles traveled, third in the amount of money that our citizens contribute to the Federal Highway Trust Fund. Yet, Florida's average return on each dollar has been 79 cents since 1956, 45th in the Nation.

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Under the fourth year of ISTEA, Florida will drop to 77 cents for every dollar, 46th in the Nation. The ISTEA reauthorization bill must include a formula that is based on current reasonable and appropriate factors.

JUVENILE CRIME

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, as we consider this week the issue of juvenile